

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on June 20, 2006. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in this application. Claim 2 is rewritten as allowable claim 5, and claim 5 is accordingly cancelled, without prejudice. Claim 14 is rewritten in independent form. New claims 15 and 16 are added, dependent on claim 14 and corresponding to claims 3 and 4. Formal amendments are made to claims 8, 10, 12, and 13. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Claims 2-4 and 8-16 are pending in the application.

Claims 2-4 and 8-14 were rejected under 35 USC § 1-3(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,817,717 (Lievre) in view of US 4,624,900 (Fau). This rejection was not applied to claim 5, and in fact the Examiner kindly indicated that claim 5 is allowable. Accordingly, independent claim 2 has been rewritten as claim 5, thereby obviating this ground of rejection as to all claims remaining in the application.


Applicants having removed all grounds for rejection of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to Issue.

The Examiner is invited to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at (703) 205-8008 with any questions pertaining to this application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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